



JUNIOR CHAMP
Jay Osmon wins
CGA Junior Match
Play tournament.

This Osmon brother brings down house

By Todd Phipers
Denver Post Sports Writer

ENGLEWOOD — The next time the Greatest Hits of the Osmon Brothers is put together, the collection might be of golf shots rather than popular songs.

And the subject will be the swinging Osmon brothers of Alamosa, not the singing Osmond brothers of Provo, Utah.

Jay Osmon — the younger by one minute of a set of golfing twins from the San Luis Valley — offered a glimpse into the future yesterday, defeating Ryan Vlack of Parker 2 and 1 at Englewood Golf Course to win the Colorado Golf Association Junior Match Play Championship.

Osmon, who turned 15 in January and just completed his freshman year at Alamosa High School, became the youngest player ever to win the state crown. He did it by outlasting the 18-year-old Vlack, a Ponderosa High School graduate who ousted brother Joe Osmon 5 and 4 in the round of 16.

Jay Osmon qualified for the championship bracket as a 14-year-old just out of eighth grade last year, but lost 2 and 1 in the opening round and was defeated again in his first consolation-round match.

There would be no such disappointments this year.

Yesterday afternoon's victory ended a banner tournament that began with the new champion tying the course record with a 65 to win medalist honors among the 157 entrants in the tournament, and continued through five matches leading to the title.

"I played well," said Jay Osmon, who had to battle from 2 down with five holes to play to defeat Vlack. "I didn't putt that well but I knocked it close enough."

He fell behind three times on the front side, once on the third hole when he had a 3-foot birdie putt to take the lead for the first time and three-putted for bogey, instead.

BY THE NUMBERS: Results of CGA Junior Match Play championships./13D

"I was a little nervous. I was getting too mad at myself," he said. "I told myself on the back side to calm down and just play."

A near loss in the opening round earlier in the week helped get him back on track. "The first match I played, I was 3 down after 10, and I thought I could come back because I came back then if I played steady, just kept hitting it straight."

Down 1 at the turn, Osmon got a break on the par-3 10th hole when Vlack three-putted for bogey to halve the hole, missing about a three-footer that would have put him another notch up. Another birdie opportunity eluded the runnerup, who finally got to 2 up with a par at No. 12 when an errant drive led to an Osmon bogey.

But Vlack, who didn't even take up golf seriously until the ninth grade and was playing in his first state junior championship, saw opportunities slipping away.

"I should have had him," he said. "I missed a birdie putt at 10, missed one at 11 and missed another one at 13."

An Osmon par got him back to within 1, and he evened the match with a birdie set up by a 345-yard drive at the par-5 15th hole.

"I hadn't lost 15 all week," said Osmon, who chipped in for eagle there in his morning semi-final victory, "so I felt good going into that one."

A par 4 at the 16th hole gave Osmon his first lead of the final match, and he quickly followed up for the kill on the par-3 17th when Vlack conceded a par after losing his tee shot in the woods.

"I let him off," said Vlack, who will attend Colorado State in the fall, but not on a golf scholarship. "I let the young guy win, I guess."



Jay Osmon

CGA JUNIOR MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS
At Englewood Golf Course

Championship flight — Jay Osmon, Cattails G.C., def. Ryan Vlack, The Pinery C.C., 2 and 1.

Championship consolation — B.J. Brady, Valley High G.C., def. Brad Barnett, Collindale G.C., 4 and 2.

A flight — John Kuosman, Patty Jewett G.C., def. Danny Luirette, Meadow Hills G.C., 1 up in 23 holes.

B flight — Brady Meeks, Country Club of Castle Pines, def. Ryan Shaffer, Boulder C.C., 7 and 5.

C flight — Scott Mendelsohn, The Pinery C.C., def. Nick Frame, Collindale G.C., 3 and 2.

D flight — Chad Buckridge, Pueblo West G.C., def. Shannon Albeke, Englewood G.C., 1 up in 19.

E flight — Ryan Hill, Bear Creek G.C., def. Mike Luoma, Pine Creek G.C., 5 and 4.

F flight — Andy Zuendel, Country Club of Colorado, def. Jason Wendling, Fort Morgan G.C., 1 up in 19.

G flight — Richie Valdez, Patty Jewett G.C., def. Brian Roth, Valley C.C., 4 and 3.

H flight — David Hill, Bear Creek G.C., def. Donald Debowey, Patty Jewett G.C., 5 and 4.